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## Frequently Asked Questions State-Certified Fire Inspectors

### 1. Question: How do I become a state-certified fire inspector?

**Answer:** In order to become a state-certified fire inspector you must:

- a) Obtain a Certified Fire Inspector 1 certification from the [National Fire Protection Association \(NFPA\)](#).
- b) Meet the certification requirements as outlined in Rule 29.502 of the [Fire Inspector Certification Rules](#).
- c) Fill out the [State Certified Fire Inspector Application](#) in its entirety and send the completed form to the mailing address listed below. Be sure to include a copy of your NFPA Certified Fire Inspector 1 certification with your application.

LARA/Bureau of Fire Services  
Attn: BreeAnn Hooker  
P.O. Box 30700  
Lansing, MI 48909

### 2. Question: Who do I contact to get the NFPA Certified Fire Inspector 1 certification?

**Answer:** Information regarding this program is available on NFPA's website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org). Preparatory classes and certification exams are also conducted through the Michigan Fire Inspector's Society (MFIS). Information regarding upcoming programs is also available on their website at [www.mfis.org](http://www.mfis.org).

### 3. Question: I have a Fire Inspector 1 certification through another organization. Can that be used as an equivalency to the NFPA Certified Inspector 1 certification?

**Answer:** Equivalencies are determined by NFPA. You may contact their Certification Department by telephone at 617-984-7432 or by e-mail at [cfi@nfpa.org](mailto:cfi@nfpa.org) to verify.

**4. Question: Why do I need to become state-certified if I've been certified through NFPA, ICC or another national organization?**

**Answer:** The state-certified fire inspector program is designed primarily for delegation of state fire safety inspections to local fire departments. At this time, the only program that has an inspection delegation process is the [Fireworks Program](#).

**5. Question: How long is my state-certification good for?**

**Answer:** Rule 29.507a(1)(a) of the [Fire Inspector Certification Rules](#) states that a certification is granted for a period of not more than 3 years and that all certificates will expire on the same 3-year cycle. For example: If an inspector becomes state-certified on January 1, 2013, his/her certification will expire on December 31, 2015. If an inspector becomes certified mid-cycle, his/her certification will expire at the end of the current 3-year cycle.

**6. Question: What do I need to do to maintain my state certification?**

**Answer:** Per Rule 29.506 of the [Fire Inspector Certification Rules](#), an inspector must complete a minimum of 10 continuing education points per year and not less than 60 points in a 3-year recertification period. A maximum of 30 points may be given for distance learning courses.

If you become certified in the middle of a 3-year certification cycle, your required continuing education points will be prorated for the remainder of the current certification cycle.

Renewals are automatically sent out during December of the expiring year provided that the Bureau has documentation on file that the minimum continuing education requirements have been met.

**7. Question: How many credits do I have? Can I find my credit statement somewhere online?**

**Answer:** Due to technology limitations the Bureau is unable to allow online viewing or tracking of credit statements. If you need to verify your current credits in the Bureau records you may contact BreeAnn Hooker by telephone at 517-241-0686 or by e-mail at [hookerb@michigan.gov](mailto:hookerb@michigan.gov).

**8. Question: What do I do if my state certification has lapsed?**

**Answer:** Rule 29.502a of the [Fire Inspector Certification Rules](#) includes a provision for inspectors whose certification has lapsed for not more than 6 years. To be recertified, you must complete all continuing education points required since the expiration date of the certification and not later than 90 days following the submission of a [State Certified Fire Inspector Application](#). If your certification has lapsed for more than 6 years, you must comply with the certification requirements as a new inspector. If you have maintained your

NFPA Certified Fire Inspector 1, provide a copy of your current certification with the [State Certified Fire Inspector Application](#) to reactivate your certification.

**9. Question: I didn't receive my new certification card. What do I need to do?**

**Answer:** If your 3-year renewal was not approved, you will receive a letter detailing the reason(s) you were not able to renew. These issues will need to be addressed before your renewal may be processed. If you do not receive a letter or a new certification card by January 15 of the new certification cycle, please contact BreeAnn Hooker by telephone at 517-241-0686 or by e-mail at [hookerb@michigan.gov](mailto:hookerb@michigan.gov) for assistance.

**10. Question: I've recently moved. What do I need to do to update my state-certified fire inspector information?**

**Answer:** To ensure that you receive your renewal and any correspondence related to it, please contact BreeAnn Hooker by telephone at 517-241-0686 or by e-mail at [hookerb@michigan.gov](mailto:hookerb@michigan.gov) to update your information.